GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1792
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2002
KIDNAPPING OF FISHERMEN
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some pirates have kidnapped the 22 fishermen in the Bay of Bengal as reported in the Dainik Jagran dated June 16, 2002;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to get the Bay of Bengal freed from pirates?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): On 15th June, 2002, District Magistrate 24 Parganas informed that some fishermen had been kidnapped from 60 miles into the sea, off Sagar Island. On 16th June, 2002, a Coast Guard Dornier was launched from Kolkata which flew low over the suspected area. Later, police authorities confirmed that the kidnappers fled when they sighted the Coast Guard Aircraft, leaving the kidnapped fishermen behind. A close vigil is being kept by Coast Guard, over the area by increased infrastructure in Haldia & Kolkata to prevent such incidents in the future.